

Wilkinson, Kris

From: Steinbeck, Lois
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 1:03 PM
To: Wilkinson, Kris
Subject: FW: Support for the PACE program!!

Here is some public testimony for tomorrow and your part of the program....

Lois Steinbeck

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From: J-P [mailto:jackandpaulette@live.com]
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2011 11:45 AM
To: Steinbeck, Lois
Cc: AGonzalezLewis@billingsclinic.org
Subject: Support for the PACE program!!

Dear Lois Steinbeck:

I am writing to you as a PACE staff member who cares for those who participate in PACE. I know you are grappling with many tough public health funding issues and I appreciate your public service.

I work at the Billings Clinic, which operates the PACE program. PACE programs function as a fully accountable care organization. They are responsible for the quality and cost of **ALL** care provided both directly and through contracted providers. Monthly capitated payments from Medicare and Medicaid are pooled and care is provided following a comprehensive assessment of the participant's needs. PACE's inclusive capitated single payment for all necessary care provides strong incentives to avoid duplicative or unnecessary services and encourages the use of appropriate community-based alternatives to hospital and nursing home care.

Billings Clinic approached the state DPHHS in 2007 and encouraged them to offer this managed care option to the dual-eligible population in our state. After much investment, time and money, and learning how to deliver health care to a complex, high cost population on a fixed budget, we are faced with our Medicaid funding being eliminated, should the Governor's budget be enacted by the Legislature. The program will be forced to close. Billings Clinic believes this will be a short-sighted decision.

I have directly seen the positive personal impact of this program -- but believe there are financial benefits to this program as well. Please support PACE.

Sincerely,

Paulette DeLeonardo

Paulette DeLeonardo
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